

FORT-WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM
11 August 1979

CIA chief wants help in keeping spy secrets

By BARBARA JOHNSON
Star-Telegram Writer

DALLAS — Sounding much like the reporters with whom he's never been too friendly, CIA Director Stansfield Turner told some of the nation's leading lawyers Friday that his sources need protection during court proceedings.

Turner, a Rhodes scholar and retired admiral, flew from Washington Friday morning to address a luncheon group at the American Bar Association annual meeting.

Turner, a non-lawyer who generally does not seek publicity, quickly made his purpose clear: Lawyers and judges, like spies-turned-authors and those who leak sensitive information to the news media, can do much to expose information the CIA wants to keep confidential.

Turner opened his remarks by saying that spying and the law can be compatible.

He said a more balanced view of the U.S. role in world affairs has evolved since "the post-Vietnam paranoia." He said congressional committees established to oversee the CIA will do much to prevent repetition of past abuses.

Nonetheless, he said, the interests of law enforcement and those of the intelligence community sometimes are at odds, and there are no easy answers to the dilemmas.

Turner talked specifically about CIA problems with espionage cases.

The agency might, for example, rec-

ommend against prosecuting an American caught handing over classified information to a foreign government.

Taking such a person to trial, he said, would make public the secrets the agency was trying to protect in the first place.

"In that case, the prosecution of espionage would exact an extraordinary price," he said. "The effect would be to do what the defendant attempted to do unsuccessfully."

Like his predecessors, Turner, who has held the top job at the CIA for 2½ years, said the trust of friendly foreign governments in the CIA has been undermined by news media leaks in this country.

He urged support for a bill introduced by Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, to outlaw revealing identities of undercover agents whose names the government wants kept secret.

Turner said questions of such constitutional law as privacy rights have had a heavy impact on the CIA's functioning, sometimes in the midst of a crisis.

Often, the agency's options have been limited by rulings from the U.S. attorney general about the legality of its operations.

During a question-and-answer period after his address, Turner said the government has "far too much classified material" that need not be secret.

He said the CIA has begun making public some of its reports with the thought that "if we give out more, we'll be better able to protect what remains."